

**\*\*Hymn 44**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**stanzas 1, 2 & 3**

*(please use the blue hymnal)*

## **THE WORD**

**Responsive Reading from the Gospels**

**Luke 2:1-7**

Pastor: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

People: All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Pastor: While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

People: And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Hymn 25 “Away in a Manger” stanzas 1 & 2**

**Responsive Reading from the Gospels**

**Luke 2:8-14**

Pastor: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

People: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Pastor: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

*“O Holy Night”*

**Bassoonist Christa Stiner**

**Homily**

**“Not Worth Counting”**

**\*\*Hymn 23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

## **THE HOLY SUPPER OF OUR LORD**

*All are welcome to receive communion, regardless of age, creed, confession, orientation, or membership.*

**The Invitation to the Table**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with you also.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*the prayer continues...*

Pastor: With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*the prayer continues...*

Pastor: ...remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

*the prayer continues and concludes with the Lord's Prayer*

## **The Sharing of the Holy Supper**

### **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Holy Supper**

**God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

### **\*\*Hymn "Silent Night"**

*During the singing of "Silent Night" the candles are lit. Please receive the flame by tilting the unlit candle toward the upright lit candle in order to minimize the dripping of wax.*

***Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.***

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.”*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our king; Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

**Benediction**

**\*\*Postlude**

**\*\*please stand as you are able**

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*Thank you for joining us on this sacred night. We wish all a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and Happy New Year!*



***First Presbyterian Church  
of Lancaster***

***Order of Worship for Christmas Eve***

***Tuesday, December 24, 2024***

*Guest Bassoonist—Christa Stiner*

*Guest Organist—Jim Parrish*

*Lighting the Advent Candle—The Barsotti/McAbee Family*

*Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney*

***Please silence cell phones prior to worship.***

***THE GATHERING***

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Greeting and Welcome**

## **Prelude**

### **\*\*Call to Worship**

Pastor: What kind of hope can endure this world?

**People: The hopes and fears of all the years are met right here tonight.**

Pastor: How can we speak peace when the world is at war?

**People: Tonight, there will be heavenly peace and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled.**

Pastor: Where is the joy of celebration when so many are hungry and hurting?

**People: All heaven and nature sing; the weary world rejoices.**

Pastor: When will love come and save us?

**People: The wonders of God's love are made flesh tonight. The angels sing "gloria", and we have nothing to fear.**

### **\*\*Invocation**